

MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF ASSESSORS  
MAY 20, 2008

Attending: Diane Lanney, John Prentiss

Approved meeting minutes from March 29, 2008 and May 12, 2008.

Reviewed request by SB Secretary for meeting with Larry Brandt, Building Department, Deb Roussel, Town Administrator, and Paul Hale, Selectboard to discuss property on Streeter Road. The property first came under BOA review in July 2007 upon receipt of a DCR decision that was issued. The DA met briefly with the Building Department and sent a letter to the Building Inspector, Planning Board, Board of Health and Conservation Commission outlining her site visit, review of all documentation found and all communications, and requested input for clarification. No response was ever received from any department. The DA, upon receipt of an application for a street number for a portion of the existing parcel, again contacted the Building Inspector and met with him late April for additional documentation and support as a buildable lot. The Building Inspector (5/13/08) stated that he would provide as soon as possible. Discussed in detail application of zoning bylaws to assessments, the DA stressed that the current BOA policy to obtain a BI final determination is essential in this instance or any others where the zoning is not obvious and/or deviates from the application of Zoning Bylaws. The DOR requires and expects the BOA to apply all zoning to all assessments and document fully those assessments that do not follow bylaws. The DA stated that the DOR did request excerpts from the Town's Zoning Bylaws for the FY2007 Revaluation. The last place the BOA wants to be is defending an assessment (to the DOR) that does not follow Bylaws for no reason.

Reviewed FY09 Budget. Total wages SB cut is \$8,629. These funds could be transferred in from overlay surplus. It was again noted that the BOA was the only department where both its personnel received budget cuts and the DA position one of only two department heads that received cuts. Mr. Prentiss requested the DA look into the MGL that allows the SB to cut a BOA presented budget.

DA presented the FY09 Verizon New Growth and its reflection of new legislation, but also the need for increased overlay until a final Supreme Court ruling is issued – most likely Summer of 2010. Bottom line: the increase in new growth is leveled by equalized amount of overlay, for another 2-3 consecutive years that the Town really cannot afford.

Reviewed request of SB for consideration of municipal transfer of funds to or from accounts. There are no excess BOA funds and no additional funds are projected to be required before June 30, 2008.

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Entered Executive Session for abatement review with the intention to return to Open Session with the purpose to adjourn.

Executive Session meeting minutes separate.

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Returned to Open Session.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

DL/sg